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MARC ASCOLESE
CAMPBELL STEPHENSON ASCOLESE, LLP
4807 SPICEWOOD SPRINGS RD.
BLDG. 4, SUITE 201
AUSTIN, TX 78759

MAILED

AUG 24 2004

Technology Center 2100

In re Application of: Rao et al.
Application No. 10/627,385
Filed: July 25, 2003
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
RESOLVING CLUSTER PARTITIONS IN
OUT-OF-BAND STORAGE
VIRTUALIZATION ENVIRONMENTS

DECISION ON PETITION
TO MAKE SPECIAL
(ACCELERATED EXAMINATION)
UNDER M.P.E.P. §708.02 (VIII)

This is a decision on the petition to make special under 37 C.F.R. §102(d) and M.P.E.P. §708.02(VIII): Accelerated Examination, filed on April 12, 2004.

The Petition is **GRANTED**.

M.P.E.P. § 708.02, Section VIII which sets out the prerequisites for a grantable petition for Accelerated Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 102(d) states in relevant part:

A new application (one which has not received any examination by the examiner) may be granted special status provided that applicant (and this term includes applicant's attorney or agent) complies with each of the following items:

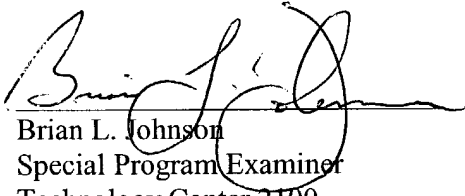
- (a) Submits a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h);
- (b) Presents all claims directed to a single invention, or if the Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status;
- (c) Submits a statement(s) that a pre-examination search was made, listing the field of search by class and subclass, publication, Chemical Abstracts, foreign patents, etc. The pre-examination search must be directed to the invention as claimed in the application for which special status is requested. A search made by a foreign patent office satisfies this requirement;

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- (d) Submits one copy each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record; and
- (e) Submits a detailed discussion of the references, which discussion points out, with the particularity required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c), how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references.

Petition to Make Special **GRANTED** since all of the requirements for special status under MPEP § 708.02(VIII) have been met.

The application file is being forwarded to the Examiner for accelerated examination in accordance with M.P.E.P. §708.02, Section VIII. If the application is subsequently allowed, it will be given priority for printing. See M.P.E.P. §1309.



Brian L. Johnson
Special Program Examiner
Technology Center 2100

Computer Architecture, Software and Information Security
703-308-0885

BLJ: 8/18/04

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